National Center for Research Resources

Workforce Plans for FYs 2002/2003

The National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) develops and supports research infrastructure to facilitate research. NCRR programs support the development of research tools along with access to national networks of specially designed research facilities for both basic and clinical research. As the overall NIH budget increases at a rate to double over a five year span, the infrastructure needs of institutions and their investigators have markedly expanded, as measured by the scope and cost estimates of applications submitted to NCRR for institutional research needs. Both new NCRR programs and markedly expanded portfolios in other NCRR programs require additional professional staff to address several Congressional initiatives – Institutional Development Awards, Research Facilities Improvement, Clinical Research, Chimpanzee Management – as well as to work with the basic and clinical research communities to address how to optimally support the progressively more complex research problems, and the multidisciplinary approaches, research tools and resources required to address this research complexity.

The NCRR budget has increased at a rate greater than the overall NIH budget, almost doubling in just three years to a level close to $1 billion; that differential reflects the need to immediately address the research infrastructure requirements among research institutions through the complex variety of programs managed by the NCRR. The NCRR has been chronically understaffed; the current staffing projection for September 30, 2001 is 124. The NCRR has been diligently recruiting staff over the past two years to deal with these infrastructure needs, and as the new programs continue to be phased in, more staff will be required to monitor progress and guide future development. Additional professional staff are needed across all NCRR program areas – clinical research, biomedical technologies, research infrastructure, and veterinary medicine – using all recruiting tools available. Grants Management Specialists and Scientific Review Administrators must be added for the review of applications and for making complex grant awards.

The NCRR staffing plans for FY 2002 and FY 2003 reflect the need to increase staffing in our programmatic areas, along with scientific review and grants management. Much of the hiring in the plan reflects additional staff for our programmatic divisions – Health Scientist Administrators, Scientific Review Administrators, and Grants Management Specialists, along with Program Analysts directly related to the scientific mission. Administrative staff provide essential functions in support of the NCRR scientific staff and the programs they manage. In order to accommodate the increased staffing related to new and expanding programs, the NCRR is adapting its programmatic space, and streamlining where possible, utilizing information technology and more efficient administrative processes. Supervisory ratios will be decreased as more staff are added to program areas, with no additional supervisors.

The plans also reflect expected turnover of about 10 percent, related to retirements and employee attrition. This represents approximately our historical average. As FY 2002 and 2003 unfold, this staffing plan may be revised to reflect additional Congressional guidance, budget increases, or changes in program priorities. However, we expect that our hiring efforts will continue to be concentrated heavily in the scientific program areas.

NCRR Hiring Plans for FYs 2002/2003

	FY 2002	FY 2003	Total
INTRAMURAL			
Senior Investigators [1]	0		0
Investigators [1]			0
Other MD/PhDs, in FTE positions			0
Other MD/PhDs in non-FTE positions (IRTA, VF)			0
Other lab/clinical staff => GS-13			0
Other lab/clinical staff =< GS-12			0
Admin/support staff => GS-13			0
Admin/support staff =< GS-12			0
Infrastructure support => GS-13			0
Infrastructure support =< GS-12 [2]			0
Summer and other temps not listed above (include summer IRTAs)			0
TOTAL INTRAMURAL	0	0	0
EXTRAMURAL			
HSAs/SRAs and other senior level science administrators => GS-13	11	10	21
Other science administration positions =< GS-12	2	5	7
Grants Management and R&D Contract Staff => GS-13 [3]		1	1
Grants Management and R&D Contract Staff =< GS-12 [3]	2	2	4
Administrative and support staff => GS-13	1		1
Administrative and support staff =< GS-12	3	4	7
Infrastructure support => GS-13			0
Infrastructure support =< GS-12 [2]			0
Summer and other temps not listed above			0
TOTAL EXTRAMURAL	19	22	41
IC TOTAL	19	22	41

[1] Using OIR professional designations

[2] Include all wage grade positions related to infrastructure in this group

[3] Includes 1101, 1102, 301 and 303 series where individual is engaged in these activities on a full-time basis.